

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2006

WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

400 PHENIX AVENUE

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC SESSION: 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at Western Hills Middle School with the following members present: Mr. Archetto, Mrs. Greifer, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, Mr. Stycos, and Mr. Traficante. Also present were Mrs. Ciarlo, Mr. Scherza, Mr. Votto, Mr. Balducci, and Mr. Laliberte.

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. It was moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(1) and contract and litigation pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(2).

Mr. Lupino acting chair, reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The roll was called and the Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

I. Executive Session Minutes Sealed – January 9, 2006

Moved by Mr. Palumbo, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried that the January 9, 2006 Executive Session minutes remain confidential.

II. Minutes of Previous Meetings – December 7, 2005; December 12, 2005; December 20, 2005

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Palumbo and unanimously carried that the minutes of December 7, 2005; December 12, 2005; and December 20, 2005 be approved.

III. Public Acknowledgements/Communications

Mrs. Greifer recognized that members of Boy Scout Troop 66 who were in attendance at this meeting. They were working on a merit badge requirement. Mrs. Greifer welcomed them.

IV. Chairperson Communications

There were no Chairperson communications.

V. Superintendent Communications

There were no Superintendent communications.

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VI. School Committee Member Communications

Mr. Stycos indicated that with regard to the Wellness Committee several members of the School Committee did not appoint a parent to the committee. He reported that the Health Department held a Health Fair and took names and addresses of people at that Health Fair. He wrote a letter to those people to let them know about the next meeting which will be held on Thursday, January 26th. He hoped that some of those people will attend that meeting to round out the parent delegation. In case those members do come up with someone who wants to be on that committee, he is moving towards filling those spots; the sooner the better if they have someone in mind.

Mr. Traficante reported that the Budget Reform Committee met which consisted of Mr. Stycos, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Balducci, Mr. Scherza, and

himself. They met last week to talk about some reforms in the budget format. They realized the time constraints they were putting on Mr. Balducci to make any changes in the format because the budget process had started. However, there will be some changes in the immediate future. There will be actual budget comparisons from FY 2003-2004 to the present 2005-2006, and the proposed budget 2006-2007. Expenditures will be identified by school with their code number. The breakdown of expenditures will consist of the staffing breakdown, salaries, purchased services, and others. There will also be separate expenditure accounts listed in terms of supplies and materials, and also equipment. There will also be additional expenditure accounts in the areas of transportation, plant operations, asset protection, technology, itinerants, special services, AEP, Charter School, Summer School, Vocational School, and stockroom. The benefits will be broken down by expenditures in terms of certified pension, health insurance, dental insurance, FICA, Medicare, survivor benefits, general liability insurance, workers' compensation, life insurance and disability. Administration will be broken down even further in terms of expenditures in terms of the Superintendent's office, Human Resources, MIS, and other departments in that particular area. The budget will also provide a location and description legend and also description definition as well.

The committee will continue to meet even after the budget process is completed to make even further changes in that format to make it more user friendly to the public and to the future School Committees.

Mr. Lupino reported that some changes had been made to the budget hearing dates. He urged administration to notify the individual schools so that through their PTO or PTG groups they can let the public know beyond the committee's normal notification. The first budget hearing will be held on January 23rd; the next on February 1st, and one on February 6th. All sessions will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Western Hills Middle School. The budget adoption is scheduled for Monday, February 27th, at Western Hills Middle School at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Lupino reported that an off-shoot of the School Buildings Committee has been meeting on a weekly basis to get the Cranston High School East project under way. A design build team of Saccoccio & Associates and O. Ahlborg have been selected to do the construction. Any of the School Buildings Committee members who can make it have been meeting on a weekly basis to get the project under way. It is proceeding as best it can at this point. The committee will report back when they have more definitive answers.

VII. Public Hearing

a. Students (Agenda/Non-agenda Items)

There were no students who spoke on agenda or non-agenda items.

b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

Valerie Schuele, 27 Farm Street - Mrs. Schuele spoke on the graduation requirements, and she was very happy to see an increased amount of time for mathematics. She would also like to see it for science, and she knows this could take place in the future. With regard to the digital portfolio for mathematics, she asked the committee to keep in mind that as these things are increased, the district may need an increase in staffing and funding for technology. This may mean a new computer lab in order for the students to do it successfully and have the time to have their needs met. If the district is going to mandate it, they have to supply the need to do it and do it correctly. She reminded the committee that for these increases in graduation requirements, which she supports, they need to keep in mind the funding which will be desperately needed.

Joanne Gregory, Director of Social Services, Comprehensive Community Action. Ms. Gregory stated that she was present at this meeting to be with the wonderful Cranston West students who have been helping out the Food Bank. She thanked the students publicly again and all the Cranston schools who have been a big support to CCAP's Food Bank. In recent months, they have pulled away from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank for a number of reasons. They needed to get more nutritious food for their clients, and it was

becoming very costly. They have started a campaign to get the schools and the residents of Cranston to support their Food Bank and to keep the donated food from Cranston residents in Cranston. She believed that Mr. Traficante distributed to the committee a flyer for CCAP. She is hoping to speak with Superintendent Ciarlo and Assistant Superintendent Scherza to see if they can have something more concrete with the schools. The schools have been absolutely wonderful to the Food Bank during the holidays. Unfortunately, they have between 500 and 600 families every month who go to them for food. They need to see if they can mobilize the resources they have with all the wonderful residents and students in the schools in this City to see if CCAP can do some types of challenges. Hope Highlands School has been fabulous to CCAP year round year after year. They have incorporated some of their food drives into their lessons. Mrs. Cornell started it in the third grade ten years ago. The third graders collect food for an entire month in which they count them and incorporate it into their math lessons. If CCAP can get the schools involved on a regular basis, it would be an enormous help to them. She has had in the past unrestricted funds to purchase food, and right now they are using those unrestricted funds to help people with fuel assistance, domestic violence keeping people safe, and paying for prescriptions. If people are going to donate food, CCAP would rather it stay in Cranston instead of going to a statewide warehouse and having it shipped back to CCAP and having to pay for it. It is at a reduced rate, but if they can keep the donations in Cranston, it would be an enormous help. She looks to the committee

to go back to the schools in their district to ask the principals to challenge other schools. It is great that they get donations at the holidays, but the families are hungry twelve months a year. She would be willing to speak to and work with any committee members. She has gone to several schools and given speeches to many students about nutrition and the importance of community service who have a social conscience and want to step forward to help those in need. She again asked to get in touch with Mrs. Ciarlo to see if they could get all the schools in Cranston to step up to the plate to help CCAP out because they are in desperate need. Mrs. Ciarlo responded that she and Ms. Gregory would be meeting shortly.

VIII. Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda

Mr. Lupino stated that the following resolutions would be included under the Consent Agenda: No.'s 06-1-2, 06-1-3, 06-1-4 with the additional name of Janice Badway; 06-1-5, 06-1-6 with the additional name of Brenda Carpentier; 06-1-7 with the additional names of Dawn Parker and Kelly Moitoso; 06-1-8, and 06-1-9.

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ADMINISTRATION

PERSONNEL

NO. 06-1-2 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the

Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed for the 2005-2006 school year:

Stephanie Rogers, salary to be at the fourth step of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – Quinnipiac University, BS

Experience – Children’s Friends and Service

License – Occupational Therapy

Assignment – Itinerant, Occupational Therapist, 1.0 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – February 1, 2006

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 14732010 511440

NO. 06-1-3 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Claudia Cunniff Elementary/Middle Special Education

Jessica Mathias Music, K-12

Angelo Pizzi General Subject Matter, K-12

Frank Notarianni General Subject Matter, K-12

Nancy Keeley Elementary/Middle Special Education

Elaine Sardella Elementary

Christine Ferranti Early Childhood Elementary, PK-2

NO. 06-1-4 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Arlene E. Daley, Teacher

Glen Hills School

Effective Date: June 30, 2006

Janice Badway, Teacher

Edgewood Highland School

Effective Date: February 1, 2006

NO. 06-1-5 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Jean Delaney, Teacher

Cranston High School West

Effective Date: December 13, 2005

NO. 06-1-6 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be appointed:

Diane Wedge, Three-hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment – December 7, 2005

Fiscal Note: 31347179 511000

Karen Walsh, Teacher Assistant

Oak Lawn School DLP

Effective Date of Employment – January 10, 2006

Fiscal Note: 10332119 519500

Kimberly Lettieri, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment – January 10, 2006

Fiscal Note: 14347543 517200

Brenda Carpentier, Secretary

Business Office

Effective Date of Employment: January 3, 2006

Fiscal Note: 19643151 515100

NO. 06-1-7 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the

Superintendent, the resignation of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

William Kuski, Custodian

Plant

Effective Date: January 2, 2006

Dawn Parker, Teacher Assistant

Crayons

Effective Date: December 31, 2005

Kelly Moitoso, Teacher Assistant

Stone Hill School

Effective Date: January 13, 2006

POLICY AND PROGRAM

NO. 06-1-8 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, Policy No. 5123, Proficiency Based Diploma Policy, be amended for second and final reading.

NO. 06-1-9 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following field trips/conferences of long duration be authorized:

Norma Cole, Principal of Garden City School, to travel to San Antonio, Texas, to attend the National Association of Elementary and

Secondary Principals Conference from March 30, 2006 to April 4, 2006.

Mrs. Ciarlo stated that Resolution No. 06-1-4 is the retirement of Arlene Daley after thirty-three years of experience in Cranston. She began as a teacher at Dutemple School, taught at Edward S. Rhodes

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School, and finally at Glen Hills School. Mrs. Ciarlo further commented that administration appreciated Arlene giving them early notice of her retirement. Administration and the committee also appreciate all the years of devoted instruction to the students. Everyone wishes her well for a well deserved retirement.

Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Palumbo and unanimously carried that these Resolutions be adopted.

IX. Action Calendar/Action Agenda

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

06-1-1 – Whereas, Cranston High School West students Colette Bazirgan, Melanie Chiv, Adrienne Gerard, Stacy Greenberg, Timothy Howarth, Jennifer McElroy, Sara Petronio, and Erica Salk joined together during the holiday season to create and administer a

**charitable activity in order to benefit several needy Cranston families,
and**

**Whereas, Adrienne Gerard, leader of this group, offered Ferns &
Flowers Tea House and Gardens to host a series of fundraising
events to benefit Cranston Comprehensive Action Program (CCAP),
and**

**Whereas, the two events sponsored by the students were called
“Chari-Tea’s”, and**

**Whereas, these students not only prepared all the food but also
served it to those in attendance; raising approximately \$1,100.00 to
include donating all their tips,**

**Be it RESOLVED that these students be commended and
congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for their
thoughtfulness, charitable and generous actions to those less
fortunate families in our community, and**

**Be it further RESOLVED that they receive a copy of this Resolution
signed by the members of the committee.**

**Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Ms. Iannazzi that this
Resolution be adopted.**

Mr. Traficante stated that he had an opportunity to attend one of the fund raisers mentioned in the Resolution. He wished to make the School Committee and the public realize and recognize the generous and charitable acts of some of the students during the holiday season to those less fortunate in this community.

Mr. Traficante read the Resolution and presented it to the students. A photograph was taken.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

TABLED RESOLUTION

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 05-12-27 – Whereas, the City of Cranston FY '06 Budget is inconsistent with the needs of the Cranston Public Schools;

Whereas, the Municipal Executive has suggested litigation as the means of resolving differences between the Cranston Public Schools and the City relating to the FY '06 Budget;

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Whereas, litigation only promises the expenditure of unnecessary funds that can be utilized in support of Cranston Schools;

Be it RESOLVED that the School Committee assigns the Superintendent, with the assistance of any and all internal staff, with the following tasks:

- 1. To adopt a hiring freeze for all new personnel and non-essential replacements;**
- 2. To adopt a spending freeze for all non-essential materials;**
- 3. To confer with representatives of the Executive and Legislative branches of the Municipal Government to recommend solutions to the existing differences between the Cranston School Committee and the City relating to the FY '06 budget;**
- 4. To recommend suggested courses of action to the Cranston School Committee in order to resolve said differences;**
- 5. To report achieved progress and status of the above to the School Committee by January 5, 2006.**

No action was taken on this Resolution.

X. New Business

There was no new business.

XI. Public Hearing on Non-agenda Items

Mary Ellen Beauregard, 46 Ashbrook – Mrs. Beauregard stated that she was present at this meeting on behalf of Hope Highlands School. She went on to say that the third graders at Hope Highlands School had been in overcrowded classrooms, and now there is another teacher and there is a good sized classroom. These same children are moving into fourth grade where the classroom size goes up and they will be busting out of the classroom again. She asked the committee that when they are doing the budget to find in their hearts to keep this teacher. She further commented that it is a very emotional issue when one is talking about children and services they haven't received. She thanked the committee because these children are now in manageable classrooms. She hoped that this teacher could stay because the children need to be in average sized classrooms.

Maureen McCann, 32 Foxridge Drive – She spoke on behalf of the Orchard Farms School PTO. She commented that the school lost two classrooms last year. They lost a 2nd grade and a 4th grade. The parents' fear is that this is going to follow, particularly the 2nd grade group, because of the size of their classroom. The PTO would like to provide some information regarding some of their concerns. The 2nd graders went from a class size of 17 or 18 children to 26 or 27 in a classroom. At 2nd grade level, it is a bit more of an issue than it would be at 4th or 5th grade. The classroom is very crowded, and the

kids are not getting a whole lot out of their day. The PTO is putting together some information and is doing some research. They are working with Mrs. Lisi to put this information together. They hope to present their concerns to the School Committee as part of the budget hearings. She asked if this was something that could be a part of the agenda. Mr. Lupino responded that he could not address her concern because of the new open meetings situation. He asked that she E-mail any members of the committee with a copy to the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. McCann indicated that she had spoken with Mr. Traficante today. She appreciated the opportunity to E-mail the committee. Mr. Lupino asked that

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Mrs. McCann get as many people as possible to attend the budget hearings. That is what they are all about so that there can be a dialogue between the committee, the administration, and the public as to what is included in those budget items.

Laurie Petitpas, 10 Ridgewood Road – Mrs. Petitpas spoke on the issue of bus transportation for Western Hills Middle School. A copy of her comments is attached for the record.

Mr. Lupino noted that because of the new rules, the committee could not respond. He indicated that at some point in time there would be a discussion regarding this issue.

XII. Announcement of Future Meetings

Mr. Lupino indicated that he had previously announced the dates of the budget meetings.

XIII. Adjournment

Moved by Ms. Iannazzi, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Anthony J. Lupino
Clerk**

Students

Promotion/Retention

Promotion

Elementary / Middle School

In general, students will be placed at the grade level to which they are best adjusted academically, socially and emotionally. Students will usually progress annually from grade to grade, spending one year in each grade. However, some students will profit by staying another year in the same grade. In such cases, the parent will be contacted in advance, although the final decision will rest with the school authorities.

Following sound principles of child guidance, it will be the Cranston Public Schools' policy not to advocate the skipping of grades.

High School

On the high school level (Grades 9 through 12), this policy recognizes uniform graduation requirements to ensure that Cranston high school graduates leave with an educational experience that prepares them to demonstrate proficiency in a common core of studies. This enables students to produce evidence and reach proficiency that supports the

following: that they are an inquisitive, literate, culturally aware, life-long learner, with positive self-esteem, who is able to think creatively and to analyze information critically. The student is a resourceful, technologically proficient worker, who contributes to team efforts. As a responsible citizen, the student is an ethical, self-reliant, and socially responsible member of the global community.

A student must complete the four components of the Rhode Island Department of Education's Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements to be eligible to receive a high school diploma from the Cranston Public Schools. The four components are as follows:

- Completion of 20 Carnegie Units in designated course work (Six Core Areas)**
- Participation in end of course assessments**
- Participation in the Rhode Island Department of Education's Assessment Program**
- Completion of the Digital Proficiency Portfolio yearly artifact requirements at the proficiency level**

The number of subjects passed and credits earned as well as completing the above-noted Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements will determine a student's progress towards graduation. When it has been determined that students have successfully completed the work prescribed for their grade level, they

shall be promoted to the next grade level.

Proficiency Based Diploma Policy 5123 (Continued)

Cranston Public Schools, in compliance with the Rhode Island Department of Education's High School Regulations, will implement the New High School Diploma System commencing with the Graduating Class of 2008. High school students will be required to pass and earn a minimum of 20 credits in specific content areas, as one measure, to earn a high school diploma from the Cranston Public Schools.

Indicated below are the minimum 20 credits required as part of the Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements that must be met by all students commencing with the Class of 2008.

CONTENT AREA CREDITS

English 4 credits

Mathematics 4 credits (3 credits in mathematics classes; 1 credit in a math related content course.*)

Science 2 credits

Social Studies 2 credits—(1 credit must be in US History)

Physical Education

Health 1 credit--.25 credits each year in Physical Education.

1 credit--.25 credits each year in Health. Students excused from physical education due to medical reasons must complete the health portion of the curriculum.

Digital Proficiency Portfolio 1 credit--.25 credits each year.

Fine Arts .5 Credits

Computer Technology .5 Credits

Electives The remaining 4 credits should be selected in conjunction with the student's guidance counselor and parent/guardian, while considering the student's goals and personal objectives to meet graduation requirements.

TOTAL MINIMUM CREDITS 20

***Cranston Public Schools will publish a list of acceptable courses**

from which students may select to meet the 4th credit in mathematics. This course credit will count towards mathematics and cannot be used to meet the minimum graduation requirement of 20 credits in any other content area.

Proficiency Based Diploma Policy 5123 (Continued)

Students will be required to demonstrate their proficiency in six core-content areas: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, The Arts, Technology as well as the Applied Learning Skills. Students will be required to use multiple measures of performance that are consistent with the Rhode Island Common Core of Learning adopted by the Rhode Island Board of Regents. Student proficiency will be demonstrated by a minimum of two measures chosen by the Cranston Public Schools. These measures are end-of-course assessments and the digital proficiency portfolio.

Grade placement shall be the responsibility of the principal following consultation with professional staff. This placement shall be based on general achievement in relationship to the above-noted Rhode Island Department of Education's Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements with consideration being provided to the psychological, physical, social and emotional maturity of the student.

Grade placement is based on course credits earned and digital proficiency artifacts as follows:

- Grade 10 at least 5 credits and 10 digital proficiency artifacts and 10 reflections**
- Grade 11 at least 10 credits and 20 digital proficiency artifacts and 20 reflections**
- Grade 12 at least 15 credits and 30 digital proficiency artifacts and 30 reflections**

Policy adopted: March 20, 1972

Policy amended: January 9, 2006 CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Resolution No.: 06-1-8 CRANSTON, RI